Global Trade Talks at Seattle

1129. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approach to maximise benefits and minimise losses in the global trade talks at Seattle proved to be a sound package deal for India; and

(b) if so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) India has participated effectively in the deliberations of the various Working Groups as were formed as a part of the Conference process at the Third Ministerial Conference at Seattle. India had particularly highlighted the implementation issues relating to the existence of asymmetries and imbalances in the various WTO agreements and also the non realisation of the expected benefits by the developing countries in general and India in particular. The upfront addressal of 'Implementation Issues' comprised the core proactive agenda of India. India has also resolutely opposed the inclusion of non-trade issues like core labour standards in the agenda of the WTO. This was fully in line with the Prime Minister's statement made in Lok Sabha on 1st December 1999. However, as no consensus-based conclusion could be reached on most of the issues before the Ministerial Conference and work of the Ministerial Conference was suspended, India would renew its efforts to defend its national interest when the work of the Ministerial Conference is resumed.

Industrial growth

1130. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a negative industrial growth during the last few years;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the sectors where the growth has been very poor or stagnant; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to accelerate the Industrial growth rate?